Your seventh point is about the extension of the municipal limits by the inclusion of Tiruvitankod. From enquiries made through their officers, Government are not satisfied about the desirability of including Tiruvitankod within the municipal limits. If the Municipality itself thinks that Tiruvitankod should be included, it may take the necessary action and represent the matter to Government.

Your next point was about the extension of the jurisdiction of the Village Panchayat and Bench Magistrate's Courts. That is a matter which will be considered by the Law's Delays Officer.

As regards an Anchal Office at Thuckalai, the question of transferring the Padmanabhapuram Anchal Office or opening a village office will be considered.

Your tenth point was about the compound wall for the vernacular school. That is a matter in which Government agree with you and provision will be made for that work in the budget for 1106.

The question of the veterinary hospital at Tuckalai will be considered along with the general question of opening more veterinary hospitals and dispensaries.

As regards the transfer of roads and *satrams* to the control of the Municipality, I have, in reply to a previous representation, said that, as a general rule, that view cannot now be accepted by Government. As regards the maintenance of roads within the municipal limits being handed over to Municipal Council, as I have already said, that is a matter which will be taken up by Government comprehensively in connection with all the Municipalities.

Your suggestion that the registry should not be in favour of each sweeper but in favour of the Council, so that the Council might see that sweepers are provided with houses and house-sites, will be borne in mind.

As regards your last two points, Government have not received any communication from the Municipal Council. If the Municipal Council moves in the matter, it will be considered.

175. Rural reconstruction.

MR. MAHAMED HASSAN (*Municipal Council, Padmanabhapuram*) said the rural reconstruction was a problem that confronted the people and the Government alike. Villages were being denuded of their population, while towns were becoming congested. Such a state of affairs should no longer be allowed to continue. The life of the village should be co-ordinated with that of the town, the village contributing its mite for the prosperity of the town and *vice versa*. It was the paramount duty of Government, no less than of the people, to work for the resuscitation of the village life.

It was gratifying to note that Government had already begun to realise the importance of rural reconstruction. The main purpose of the movement was the grant of relief to the much indebted agriculturist. The country's poverty was best reflected in the condition of the agriculturists, who formed the bulk of the population. The

co-operative societies mostly did credit work. Even such credit societies were in many cases only lending money to non-agriculturists. But the spirit of the movement would never be satisfied until the loans went to help the needy agriculturist in the purchase of his seeds, implements, manure, etc., and unless the recovery of his dues was made not by direct cash payment but by the marketing of his produce by co-operative aid rendered to him, so that his produce might get its full value and his loans might be realised out of such full value. To that end, propaganda and effort should be directed and that should be the highest function of the Co-operative Department. Agricultural societies should therefore be formed and facilities for the agriculturist made available on an elaborate scale. Agricultural demonstration societies might also be started with advantage. Co-operative distributive societies, and other societies to help the small industrialists and to enable them to find out improved methods of work, should be formed. The formation of such societies by the Co-operative Department would help to improve the condition of the poor agriculturists to a large extent.

The health of the villagers was far from satisfactory. The inadequate sanitary arrangements and scarcity of good drinking water caused the outbreak of epidemics, especially in South Travancore. Proper arrangements to improve the sanitary condition of the villages should be immediately made. Every year cholera exacted its toll in human lives in hundreds from the taluks of South Travancore. It was only when epidemics broke out that the Sanitary Department did its work.

The periodical outbreak of epidemics began mostly in the coastal villages. It was those villages that were most neglected. The arrangements in the huts and hovels on the coast presented a horrible picture. For the welfare and safety of the people of the other parts of the country, Government would do well to help the inhabitants of the coastal regions in the matter of reconstruction of their villages on sanitary principles. More fish-curing yards and stores should be provided for the use of the fisherfolk. Building societies should be formed on a co-operative basis and the people encouraged by Government. More public wells should be sunk in the villages to facilitate the supply of good drinking water. The newly-organised Public Health Department should immediately begin propaganda work in the villages.

The Road Boards should pay due regard to the grievances of the villages in the matter of communications.

Primary education should be made compulsory, at least in villages. Technical education should be imparted to the pupils in all classes.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Hassan, as you yourself said, Government fully appreciate the importance of rural reconstruction.

Your suggestions for the improvement of life in rural areas will be carefully noted and such of them as require investigation will be referred to the various departments and offices to which they relate for examination and necessary action.